



# PAUL SYMENS

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January 18, 2002

Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
601 D Street N.W., Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Trial Attorney Hesse:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments on the settlement of *U.S. v. Microsoft* and the benefits this settlement will have for the nation and our state.

South Dakota has been pro-active in making information technologies ubiquitous for children and adults throughout our state. Governor Bill Janklow's Wiring the Schools Program is making high-speed, wide band internet service available in all schools and public buildings in every town. Additionally, with the help of a \$670,000 matching grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the state is bringing faculty and administrators up to speed on using these systems so that more children will benefit. The settlement from the Microsoft antitrust case will result in financially disadvantaged school districts receiving free software, hardware and technical support. For disadvantaged kids, this is a case of what happens when preparedness meets opportunity. In South Dakota, where the nation's three poorest counties are found, this settlement will have great meaning for young people seeking their way in this world.

Aside from the educational benefit, I am glad that this case is nearly settled. It has absorbed an incredible amount of taxes and four years of productive time to resolve the issues brought to the court. Those issues are addressed in this settlement, and I believe they should be satisfied. There are those who would like to continue this case. I can't imagine that after all of the time and money invested to date that anything useful or productive would be the result.

Please let this case become settled. Microsoft is part of the foundation of our nation's economy, and continuing this case will work only to weaken a corporation which has been a responsible citizen to our nation. Thank you for considering my letter.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Symens  
State Senator, District 1

Paid for by Paul Symens for Senate Committee, RR Box 89, Amherst, SD 57421

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